

# The Roving caterpillar.



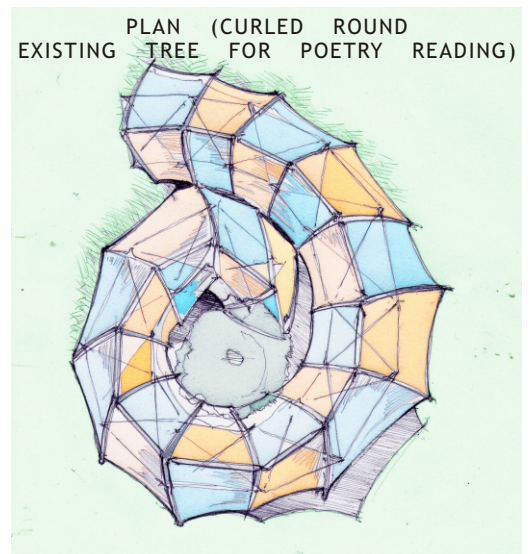
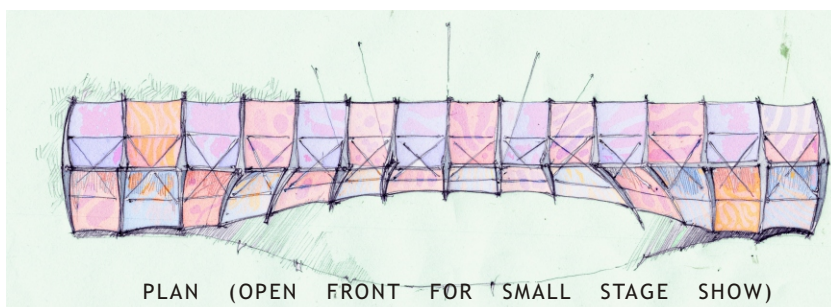
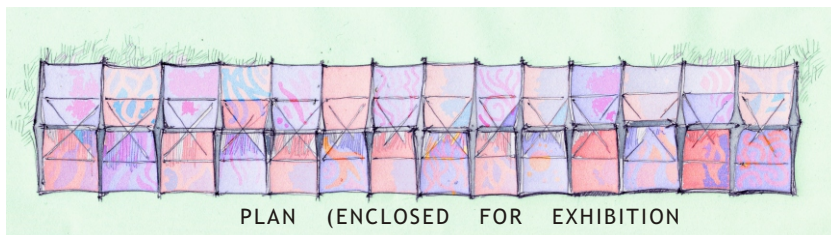
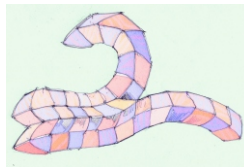
A colourful caterpillar may hop from place to place, spreading the word widely. Its' belly would be the venue for a rolling series of events around London, the country or even the Globe. The premiss behind such a beast is that if you want to involve people you must reach out and engage them, and you can't get much more living or mobile than a traveling party.

Static and interactive exhibitions, poetry readings, road-shows, public speaking events & concerts could all be hosted from what is hoped to be a twenty first century equivalent of the big top, announcing its' arrival through its' distinctive & colourful form. Capable of growing, shrinking, and wrapping itself into any available hollow, our caterpillar adapts itself to any chosen spot.

Such a structure could be adapted to our most accessible of public open spaces- parks, Village Greens, public squares and sports stadia to name but a few.

A soft, pliable outer skin opens up a number of possibilities in terms of surface texture, colour and backlighting- It is envisaged that .the structure will have a tactile, animalistic quality, that will entice the casual visitor.

The body is modular, individual segments along the chain may be removed or added to, according to the size of the venue or the nature of the event. It is possible that several caterpillars could conjoin to form a large and intricate structure, or that caterpillar may beget caterpillar.



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At this early stage the caterpillar is a broad concept & could be made flesh in a variety of ways- moulded Glass reinforced cement or glass reinforced polyester segments could interlock in a variety of positions, for example. A strong contender might be the use of a flexible fabric, such as recycled PVC, on a steel frame:

Rows of segments are formed from steel exostructures supporting a membrane skin of recycled P.V.C, possibly with fibreglass battens to add form & surface texture. Each segment may be added or removed, and has 2 steel ribs extending from the structures' spine to the ground below. These are, effectively, a portal frame, and can be pulled upright from the horizontal with great speed, using a bare minimum of labour. The structure would probably be built segment by segment, each segment being light enough for a small team to handle, and foldable for ease of transport & storage. Steel cables would be used to guy these portals in position. These cables would be anchored to the ground using earth anchors for speed & to avoid the environmentally destructive use of mass concrete foundations.

It is not possible, at this early stage to provide a firm costing, as this would involve consultation with structural engineers & specialist contractors. Around £1,000/ Metre would sound realistic for a relatively complex yet basic structure, allowing you a reasonably expansive 35M2 space that can be extended by making and adding more segments.

